

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Regents
From: Board Office
Subject: Annual Governance Report on Regional Study Centers
Date: May 8, 2000

Recommended Action:

Receive the report.

Executive Summary:

The Regent universities participate in independent graduate study centers located in the Quad Cities and in Sioux City. The universities also cooperate to provide a resource center in Council Bluffs for citizens in the southwest portion of the state. These efforts are part of the institutional efforts to help the Board of Regents achieve its objective to improve access to the Regent institutions as stated in its Strategic Plan:

KRA 2.0.0.0 Provide access to educational, research, and service opportunities within the missions of the Regent institutions.

Objective 2.2.2.0 Evaluate annually and, where appropriate, make recommendations to meet relevant educational and service needs of the state.

Strategy 2.2.2.0 Recognize the need of all Iowans for access to services provided by Regent institutions including health care services, extension, and services provided by the special schools.

Action Step 2.2.2.7 Encourage development of strategic alliances to increase access to services as measured by annual reports of individuals served.

The Quad Cities Graduate Study Center, in Rock Island, Illinois, is a 30-year old consortium of 12 educational institutions in Iowa and Illinois which cooperate with business and industry leaders from Scott County in Iowa (Davenport and Bettendorf) and Rock Island and Henry Counties in Illinois (Rock Island and

Moline). Unduplicated headcount enrollment increased by 1,909 from 3,535 to 5,444 (+54.0%) during the 1999-2000 academic year; total registrations increased by 1,967 students to 9,176 (+27.3%) during the 1999 - 2000 academic year. The proportion of Iowa residents enrolled in the GradCenter grew from 35.7% (1,228) in FY 1995 to 46.5% (2,529) in FY 2000. The Quad Cities Graduate Study Center added 11 programs to its offerings during 1999-2000 of which five were from Iowa Regent universities. The total enrollment at Regent universities was 1,084 students.

The Tri-State Graduate Center in Sioux City brings together business and community leaders and the leadership of 17 educational institutions and agencies in three states to provide graduate educational experiences to northwestern Iowa, northeastern Nebraska, and southeastern South Dakota. Total student headcount enrollment for FY 2000 was 2,110 which was a decrease of 10.4% over FY 1999 enrollments. The decrease resulted primarily from fewer education offerings by Wayne State College. Iowans accounted for 68.8% of the enrollments. The total enrollment, which includes professional development courses offered by AEA 4 and AEA 12, was 4,729 during 1999-2000; this represented an increase of 0.2% from the prior year. Regent universities offered 15 of the 37 graduate and certificate programs of study available through the Tri-State Graduate Center in 1999-2000¹; there was an enrollment of 431 students.

Located on the Iowa School for the Deaf campus in Council Bluffs, the Southwest Iowa Regents Resource Center provides citizens in southwest Iowa an opportunity to receive access to services provided by the universities. Enrollments for FY 2000 totaled 528, which was a decrease of 10.7% over levels reported in FY 1999. The decrease resulted primarily from fewer education offerings by the University of Northern Iowa, especially in elementary reading and language arts. The Southwest Iowa Regents Resource Center offers a variety of programming. Among events co-sponsored by the Center was a performance of the University of Iowa's *Dancers in Company* with the Council Bluffs Community Schools.

The Regent Exhibit Book contains the full reports of the Regional Study Centers.

Background:

Quad Cities Graduate Study Center

The GradCenter, as it is known locally, is a consortium of 12 colleges and universities in Iowa and Illinois whose mission is to provide graduate-level educational opportunities to the Quad Cities area. The GradCenter maintains offices on the Augustana College campus. Although Augustana provides no

¹ Three additional programs available through the Center did not materialize during 1999-2000.

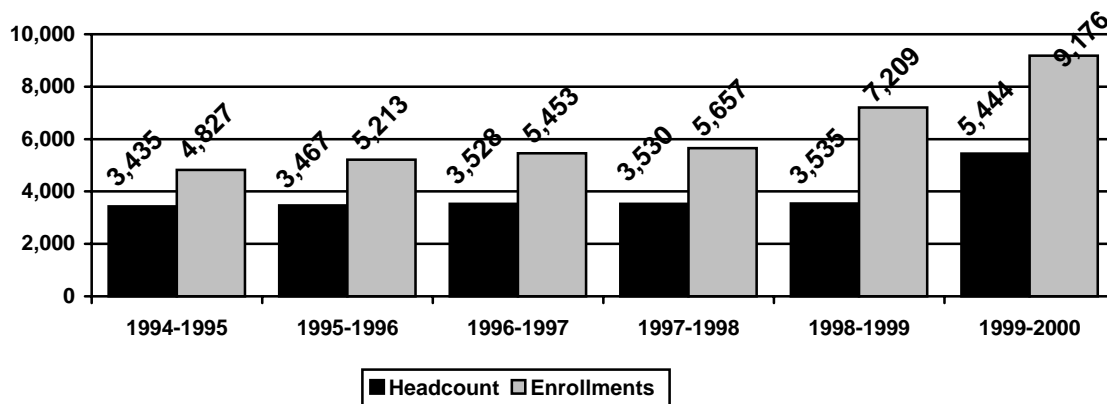
graduate education programs, it provides library and other services to the GradCenter and its participating institutions.

Member Institutions of the Quad Cities Graduate Study Center

Illinois	Iowa
Augustana College Rock Island	Iowa State University Ames
Bradley University Peoria	Marycrest International University Davenport
Illinois State University Normal	St. Ambrose University Davenport
Northern Illinois University DeKalb	University of Iowa Iowa City
St. Xavier University Chicago	University of Northern Iowa Cedar Falls
University of Illinois Chicago and Urbana	
Western Illinois University Macomb	

Unduplicated headcount enrollment in the GradCenter increased by 1,909 students to 5,444 (+54.0%) during the 1999-2000 academic year. Total registrations increased by 1,967 students to 9,176 during the 1999-2000 academic year; this represents a 27.3% increase. Improved marketing including print advertisements, radio spots, feature articles, and the coordinated efforts with member institutions helped increase overall enrollments.

Unduplicated Headcount and Enrollments



The following five planning goals, which were approved by the Governing Board, guided 1999-2000 activities:

Goal 1. Develop and implement a graduate education community needs survey.

The survey project began in October 1999 and will end with the development of a marketing/action plan in June 2000. The project included an analysis of area economic and demographic trends, survey of students and employers, interviews with Governing Board members and representatives of the Board of Regents, State of Iowa, and the Illinois Board of Higher Education. In June 2000, the Governing Board will discuss survey results, identify key findings applicable to the development of a marketing/action plan and make public the survey findings.

Goal 2. Facilitate and support state telecommunications systems.

During 1999-2000, the GradCenter continued to serve on the area's Regional Telecommunications Center (RTC) and a similar council that oversees course delivery in Illinois. Through telecommunications, access to graduate opportunities in the Quad Cities was expanded during 1999-2000. Of the 11 new degree programs that were implemented in 1999-2000, eight were from Iowa institutions and five are being delivered over the Iowa Communications Network.

Goal 3. Develop new procedures and refine existing procedures for ensuring quality.

During 1999-2000, the GradCenter's Governing Board named an ad hoc committee to study quality factors in off-campus graduate education. This study culminated in the development and endorsement of two documents on quality -- one which pertains to academic quality (developed by GradCenter member institutions) and the other which pertains to quality operations (targeted to GradCenter staff). The two documents summarize quality issues pertinent to the adult, part-time graduate student.

Goal 4. Develop and/or update, as needed, GradCenter policies and procedures regarding budgeting, office procedures, managing investments, and personnel issues.

GradCenter staff increased productivity and efficiency by updating existing procedure manuals, job descriptions, the personnel handbook, and organizational policies. In addition, in an effort to streamline procedures and generate solutions to consortia concerns, the

GradCenter staff met three times with the directors of the Tri-State Graduate Center and the Southwest Iowa Regents Resource Center.

- Goal 5. Develop and implement plans for celebration of the GradCenter's 30th anniversary and use the anniversary to market the Center to the greater Quad Cities community.

Through extensive work of the Governing Board's Ad Hoc 30th Anniversary Committee, anniversary events have now been successfully completed. The occasion of the anniversary was used to market graduate education opportunities in the Quad Cities.

During 1999-2000, the GradCenter developed and implemented a number of activities which supported the goal of service to students, member institutions, and community.

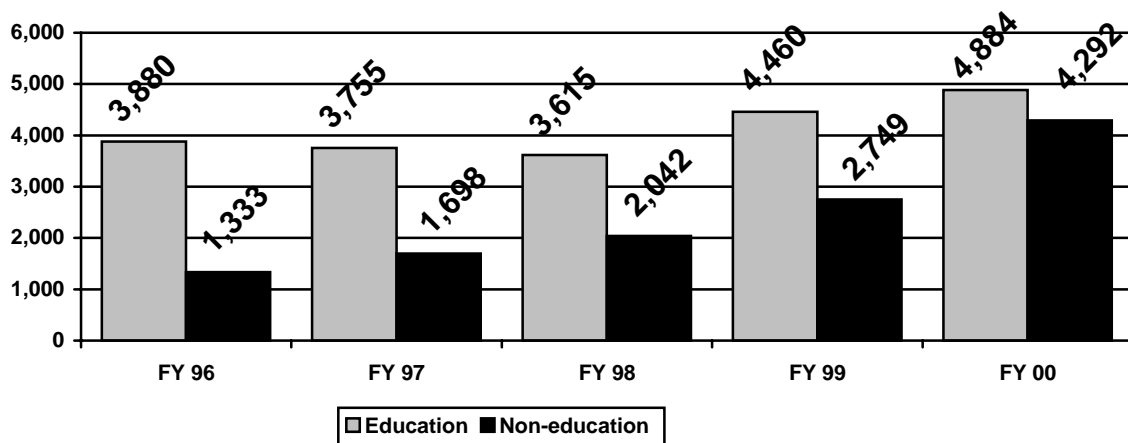
- ✳ Increased access by improving methods of information distributed through the Web, resulting in 24-hour-per-day access to information on course offerings, registration, tuition, and member institution-sponsored events.
- ✳ Through working with member institutions, improved student access to library materials, including electronic databases and the Internet. Through the GradCenter Web page, individuals may link directly to each of the 12 member institutions.
- ✳ Member institutions added 11 new graduate degree programs to current program offerings. Member institutions also increased the number of students gaining access to graduate programming through increased use of the Iowa Communications Network and the Western Illinois Education Consortium.
- ✳ The GradCenter increased the scope of the existing database of names and addresses of students, area employers, and other interested individuals and used the database to assist member institutions to market new and continuing resident degree programs and courses.
- ✳ The GradCenter sought feedback from member institutions to develop a new approach to offering "GradCenter Night." The GradCenter also worked with member institutions to host institutional receptions and informational meetings.
- ✳ The GradCenter expanded its role as the greater Quad Cities' clearinghouse for access to quality graduate education in Scott, Rock Island, and Henry counties.

- ✱ The GradCenter located and identified higher education resources that responded to its mission. These resources included Deere and Company, Illinois Board of Higher Education, the Quad City Development Group, MidAmerican Energy Company, and several local foundations.
- ✱ To accommodate students, the GradCenter made use of 65 electronic classrooms in Iowa and 19 in Illinois to facilitate delivery of distance education courses. This is an increase of 282% of electronic sites from the prior year.

Over the years, enrollments in education programs, which are offered by the colleges of education at participating colleges and universities, have accounted for a significant majority of enrollments. During FY 2000, enrollments in education programs accounted for 53.2% of the total enrollment. The FY 2000 enrollment in education programs represents a 9.5% increase from last year from 4,460 to 4,884.

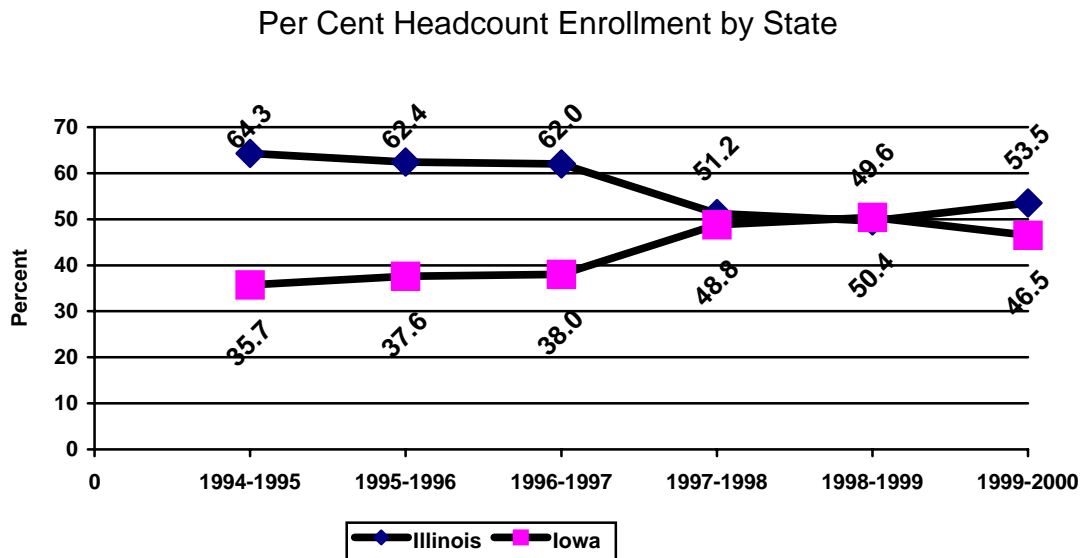
- ✱ During FY 2000, enrollments in Non-Education programs (accounting, business administration, and others) increased by 56.1% from 2,749 to 4,292.
 - ◆ One reason for the increase in non-education enrollments can be explained by the increased level of course offerings by Regent institutions. For example, in the area of business administration, enrollments increased by 129.1% from 984 to 2,254.
 - ◆ Another reason for the increase has to do with delivery format. Regent institutions are offering more courses through ICN. Without a strict class size minimum which is required with on-site courses, more students have been served in a variety of courses.

Education and Non-Education Enrollments



Of the eleven programs added at the GradCenter during 1999-2000, eight were from Iowa institutions, and five were offered by Regent institutions. The Regent universities offered a total of 21 programs at the GradCenter. The three universities also offered individual courses that are not part of a program as part of their ongoing efforts to provide sought after classes.

- * Iowa State University added programs in agriculture and financial counselor (certification) at the GradCenter. Other ISU programs offered through the GradCenter include computer engineering, electrical engineering, family and consumer sciences, mathematics education, microbiology, public management (certificate), superintendent (certificate), and systems engineering. The total enrollment was 45 students.
- * The University of Iowa offered one new program during FY 2000 in science education. The University also offered business administration, community college teaching licensure (certificate), pharmacy (Pharm. D.), principalship endorsement/educational administration (certificate), social work, and nursing. The total enrollment was 988 students.
- * The University of Northern Iowa added programs in public relations and middle school education during FY 2000. UNI also offered programs in educational technology, library science, and music education. The total enrollment was 51 students.



The Governing Board of the GradCenter formulated the following planning goals for 2000-2001:

- Goal 1. The GradCenter will develop and implement a marketing/action plan, based on the findings of the graduate education community needs survey.
- Goal 2. The GradCenter will update its current quality measures to supplement and complement those of member institutions.
- Goal 3. The GradCenter will promote access to graduate programming and the services necessary for successful off-campus study.
- Goal 4. The GradCenter will develop outreach approaches to locate, recruit, and enroll a diverse student body.
- Goal 5. The GradCenter will establish three partnerships with firms or agencies in the Quad Cities community for the purpose of supporting the mission of the Center.
- Goal 6. The Center will identify current tasks, goals, and objectives that inhibit the Center's efficiency and productivity.

The current budget for the GradCenter is \$384,376. The State of Iowa appropriated \$171,382 toward that budget (44.6%). The State of Illinois and earnings that the GradCenter has generated supply the other portions of the budget. Additional information about the GradCenter is included in the Regent Exhibit Book.

Tri-State Graduate Center

The Tri-State Graduate Center was founded in 1990 to facilitate delivery of graduate education and other training opportunities to the residents of Siouxland. Seventeen educational agencies cooperate to provide educational experiences to the area.

From FY 1991 to FY 1994, credit enrollments included enrollments in professional development courses offered by the Western Hills AEA and for which several local colleges granted academic credit. Beginning with FY 1995, the Tri-State Graduate Center has also reported credit enrollments specifically for courses offered by the participating colleges and universities.

Membership in the Tri-State Graduate Center

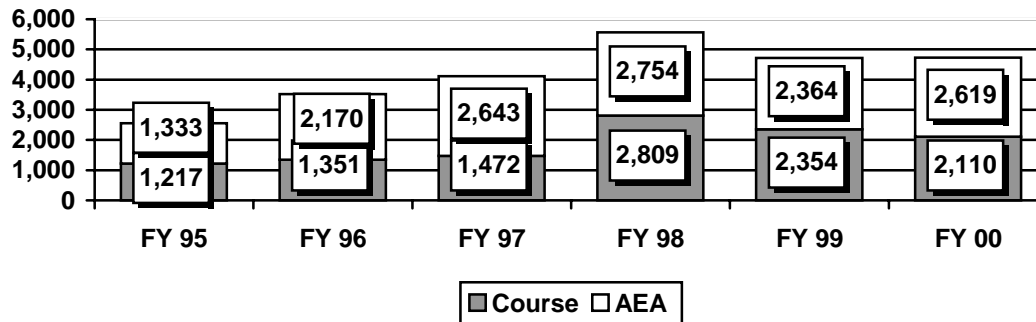
Iowa	Nebraska
Briar Cliff College Sioux City	Creighton University Omaha
Des Moines University ² Des Moines	University of Nebraska Lincoln
Drake University Des Moines	University of Nebraska Omaha
Iowa State University Ames	Wayne State College Wayne
Morningside College Sioux City	
Northwest Iowa Community College ³ Sheldon	South Dakota
University of Iowa Iowa City	South Dakota State University Brookings
University of Northern Iowa Cedar Falls	University of South Dakota Vermillion
Area Education Agency 4 Sioux Center	
Western Hills Education Agency 12 Sioux City	
Western Iowa Tech Community College Sioux City	

Program headcount enrollment decreased by 10.4% over FY 1999 enrollment. The decrease resulted from discontinuation of several large enrollment programs: the Master of Science in Counselor Education at Wayne State College accounted for a decrease of more than 400 students; the Master of Science in Nursing at Creighton University accounted for a decrease of 126 students; and the Master of Education in Educational Leadership at Iowa State University accounted for a decrease of 81 students. The total headcount enrollment, which includes professional development offerings by AEA 4 and AEA 12, increased by 0.2% from 4,718 to 4,729 during 1999-2000.

² Des Moines University joined the Tri-State Graduate Center consortium in February 2000 as a Member Academic institution.

³ Northwest Iowa Community College joined the Tri-State Graduate Center consortium in February 2000 as a Member Academic institution "contributing resources to the programs rather than as a provider of graduate courses."

TOTAL ENROLLMENT DURING 1999-2000

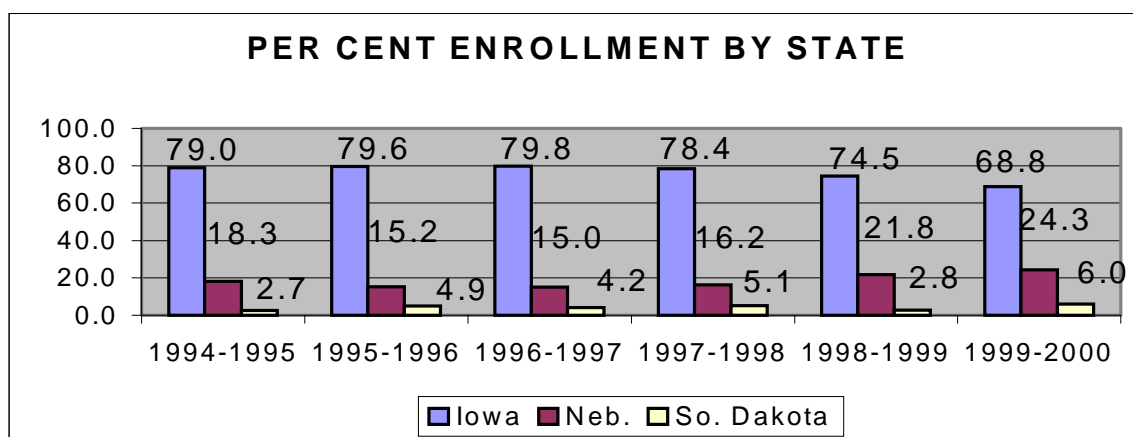


- * During 1999-2000, Morningside College had the highest enrollment (500), which was all in education programs. Wayne State College's enrollment of 444 was the second highest in the consortium, primarily in the field of education.
- * Enrollments at Regent universities increased by 102 students (+31.0%) from 329 to 431. There were enrollment decreases (-25.4%) at ISU from 126 to 94. Some of the decreases were attributed to completion of programs by students. In SUI programs, enrollment increased from 142 to 239 (+68.3%) which resulted primarily from the new Social Work program. At UNI, enrollments increased from 61 to 98 (+60.7%) which occurred primarily in the field of educational administration.

Fifty-four per cent of the programs made available through the Tri-State Graduate Center during the current fiscal year were delivered through distance education technologies and accounted for 32% of the enrollment. Forty-six per cent of the programs were delivered through traditional format and accounted for 68% of the enrollment.

- * Many of the courses within the programs are open to students who are not pursuing a graduate degree. Either the university notifies the Center that enrollment is open or the student has the option to speak to the instructor.
- * All programs offered by Regent universities make use of the distance education technologies to offer the programs.
- * The Center has benefited from increased numbers of sites capable of accepting the Iowa Communications Network and the Nebraska satellite system transmissions.

Iowans continue to provide the largest number of enrollments in the Tri-State Graduate Center. There were 1,451 Iowa residents enrolled at the Center, which accounted for 68.8% of the enrollment. Nebraska residents accounted for 24.3% of the enrollment (513) while South Dakota residents accounted for 6.0% of the enrollment (127). The remaining 0.9% of enrollments (19) was by individuals from other states.



Iowa Regent universities offered 15 graduate and certificate programs from among 37 graduate and certificate programs offered through the Tri-State Graduate Center in 1999-2000.

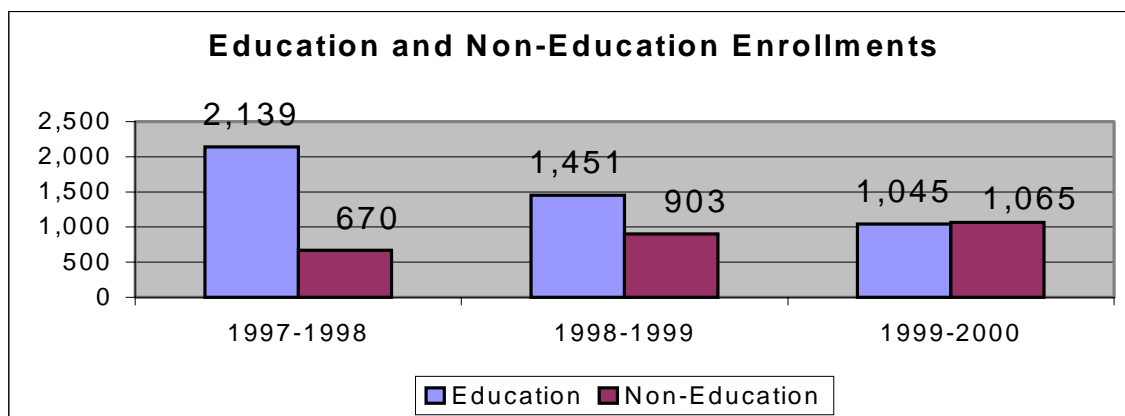
- * ISU offered masters programs in agriculture, agronomy (new in 1999-2000), educational leadership, engineering, family and consumer sciences, microbiology, and school mathematics. The University also offered programming toward certificates in public management and school superintendency. The total enrollment was 94.
- * SUI offered masters programs in library and information science and social work (new in 1999-2000); the University also offered a doctor of pharmacy program. The total enrollment was 239.
- * UNI offered masters programs in school library media studies and educational leadership. The University also offered an educational leadership superintendency certificate program. The University also offered a new certificate program in gerontology in 1999-2000, which did not materialize due to lack of enrollment. The total enrollment was 98.

In addition to expanding the consortium through the addition of Des Moines University and Northwest Iowa Community College, the Center expanded its educational offerings: Wayne State College began a new cohort for the Master of Science in Counselor Education; the University of Nebraska - Lincoln began a

Master of Education (Curriculum and Instruction or Educational Administration) and a Master of Engineering; Des Moines University began a Masters of Health Care Administration and a Master of Public Health; and the University of Iowa began a Master of Social Work and a Doctor of Pharmacy.

- * This has increased the number of academic programs and diversity of students accessing the Center through the sites in the region, although enrollments continue to remain small in some sites.

Over the years, enrollments in Education programs, which are offered by the colleges of education at participating colleges and universities, have accounted for a significant majority of enrollments. However, in FY 2000, enrollments in education programs accounted for only 49.5% of the total enrollment. This resulted from a 27.9% decrease due primarily to the end of a cohort in the Master of Science in Counselor Education Program at Wayne State College. During FY 2000, enrollments in non-Education programs increased by 17.9%.



The Center made the following progress toward achieving its 1999-2000 goals:

Goal 1. Continue to refine review processes for existing programs.

A comprehensive needs assessment of teachers and school administrators in Northwest Iowa, Northeast Nebraska, and Southeast South Dakota was conducted in Fall 1999 in cooperation with AEA 4 and Area Education Agency 12 in Iowa; Educational Service Unit #1 in Nebraska; and the Dakota Valley School District and Jefferson/Elk Point School District in South Dakota. The summary results of this needs assessment have been shared with the schools involved and the 17 member institutions of the Center. On November 8, 2000, a Superintendents/Deans Forum will be held to address the education needs that have been identified and to encourage cooperative programming among the member academic institutions to serve the identified needs. This activity will serve as the basis for reviewing the

availability of quality education and school administration programs that are available in the tri-state Siouland area. Des Moines University identified the need for the Master of Public Health and the Master of Health Care Administration programs at sites throughout Iowa. In 1999-2000, Des Moines University became a member of the Center and is offering both degree programs through a distance education site at Western Iowa Community College.

Goal 2. Maintain on-going marketing programs.

GRE Preparation and Strategies. Follow-up sessions on preparation for the Graduate Record Examination were conducted from ISU on the ICN to the Tri-State Graduate Center, the Southwest Iowa Regents Resource Center, and the Quad Cities Graduate Study Center in Fall 1999 and in Spring 2000. Thirty-six potential graduate students participated at the first session and seven at the second session. Evaluations indicated that the programs serve a need, particularly with the change to a computer adaptive environment.

Tenth Anniversary Celebration. The Center is observing its tenth anniversary. Anniversary activities include the publication of an 8-page newspaper tabloid and class schedule with distribution throughout the tri-state Siouland area, new commemorative stationery, brochures, banners, and gift pens. The Center will be participating in the Year of the Anniversaries recognition dinner on May 20 with SIMPCO⁴ (35 years), Western Hills AEA (25 years), and the Siouland Regional Transportation System (15 years).

Information/Advising Sessions. Scheduled each semester in cooperation with the University of South Dakota, the sessions provide information about USD degree programs offered in Sioux City.

Human Resource Managers. A dialogue has been opened with Siouland Chapter of the Society of Human Resource Managers to make Graduate Center class schedules available for employees and to tailor graduate education to the specific needs of a particular company or industry.

Goal 3. Increase offerings to meet the graduate education needs for clients of the Tri-State Graduate Center.

Six new programs were implemented in 1999-2000, including a flexible Master of Education and a Master of Engineering from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln; a Master of Health Care Administration and a Master of Public Health from Des Moines University; and a non-

⁴ Siouland Interstate Metropolitan Strategic Council

traditional Pharm. D. and a Master of Social Work from the University of Iowa.

The Center has identified the following 2000-2001 goals:

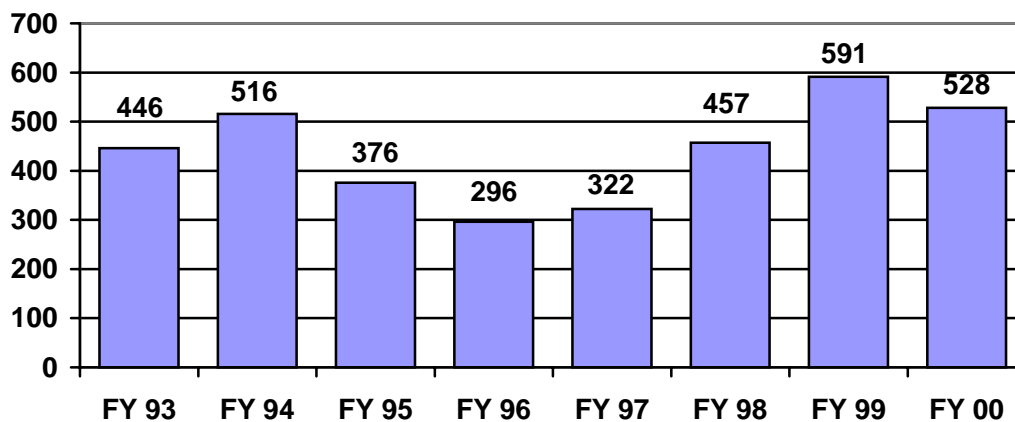
1. Facilitate transition of the newly appointed executive director of the Tri-State Graduate Center.
2. Expanded marketing programs and increase visibility of the Center as an educational resource in the community.
3. Continue to identify graduate education needs for prospective students in Siouxland.
4. Build a base of support utilizing students, member institutions, employers, and community groups.

The Tri-State Graduate Center has a FY 2000 budget of \$143,737. The State of Iowa appropriated \$83,778 toward that budget (58.3%). The States of Nebraska and South Dakota provided most of the remainder of the funding. The Center also generated some earnings to aid in its budget. More information about the Tri-State Graduate Center can be found in the Regent Exhibit Book.

Southwest Iowa Regents Resource Center

The Southwest Iowa Regents Resource Center is completing its ninth year of service to the people in eight counties in the southwest corner of Iowa. The Regents Resource Center maintains offices on the campus of the Iowa School for the Deaf in Council Bluffs and uses facilities throughout the southwest corner of the state.

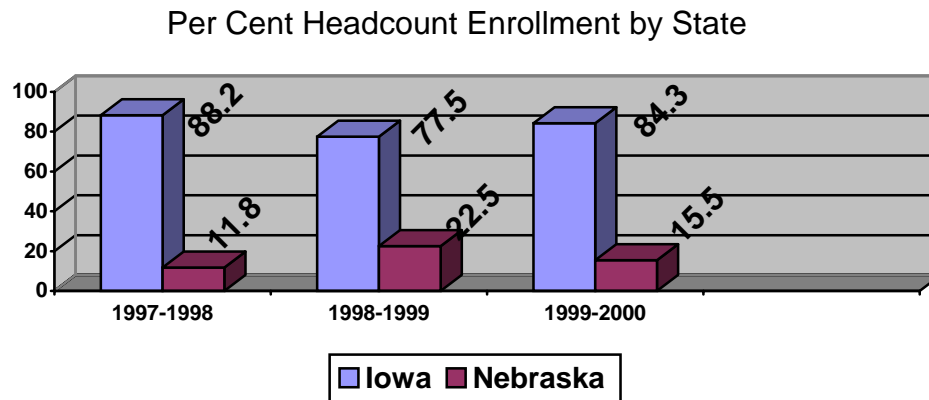
Southwest Iowa Regents Resource Center Enrollment



Total enrollment through the Regents Resource Center decreased by 10.7% in 1999-2000 from the previous year. Enrollments for this year totaled 528. A large share of the decrease resulted from the conclusion of a cohort in the Elementary Reading and Language Arts program offered by the University of Northern Iowa.

UNI's enrollment of 343 was the highest of the three universities; this enrollment represented a 21.7% decrease from the previous year but a 17.9% increase from 1997-1998. ISU reported an enrollment of 104 students (+36.8%) and SUI reported an enrollment of 81 students (+5.2%).

- * Iowa residents accounted for 445 (84.3%) of the enrollments during the current year. Nebraska residents accounted for 82 (15.5%) of the enrollments. There was one student enrolled from Missouri. Overall, the proportion of Iowa residents increased from 77.5% to 84.3%.



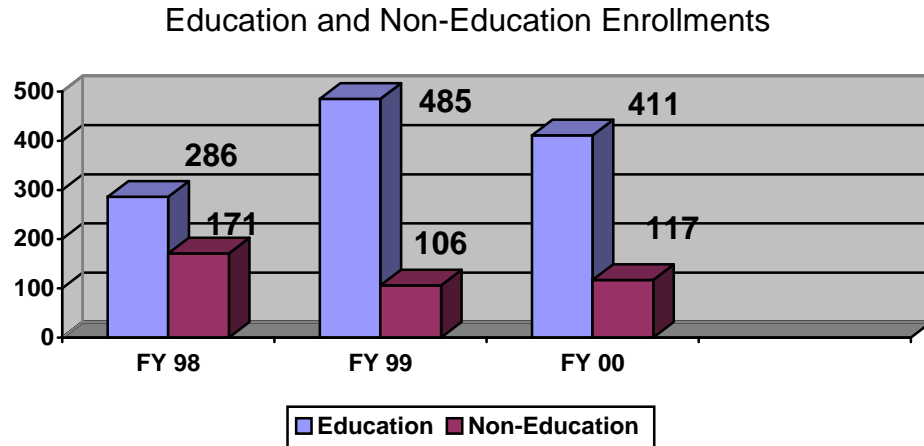
The Regents Resource Center offered 16 graduate and 4 undergraduate programs as well as 11 certificate/endorsement programs under its auspices. During 1999-2000, nine new programs or program cycles were initiated.

- ✓ The University of Northern Iowa offered the certificate in technology management, driver education endorsement, gerontology certificate, Master of Arts in Education - Early Childhood Education, Master of Arts in Education - Middle Level Education, Master of Arts - Mathematics for the Middle Grades, and Master of Music Education.
- ✓ The University of Iowa offered the Master of Arts in Library Science.
- ✓ Iowa State University offered the Master of Science in Agronomy.

Twenty-nine of the programs and certificates (93.5%) were delivered through distance education formats during 1999-2000 and accounted for 56.8% of the enrollments through the Regents Resource Center. On-site, face to face, instruction occurred in only 6.5% of the courses offered, but accounted for 43.2% of the enrollments. A variety of distance education formats were used in 1999-

2000, including the ICN, World Wide Web, Iowa Public Television, videotapes, and satellite transmissions.

Over the years, enrollments in Education programs, which are offered by the Regent colleges of education, have accounted for a significant majority of enrollments. During FY 2000, enrollments in education programs accounted for 77.8% of the total enrollment. Education program offerings have increased by 43.7% since FY 98.



The mission of the Regents Resource Center is to provide increased access to graduate and undergraduate education and other Regent universities' resources for area residents. The Center made the following progress toward accomplishing its 1999-2000 goals:

Goal 1. Develop and implement a Center marketing plan for the purpose of increasing enrollments and awareness of Regent educational opportunities available in the region.

- ✓ A Center marketing plan was developed and is continually updated.
- ✓ As part of the Center marketing plan, a Center website was developed and promoted. Upcoming educational events, informational meetings, and current course and program offerings are provided on the website. Links to the continuing education units of the Regent universities assist area residents to obtain more information and facilitate enrollment.
- ✓ A new Center logo was developed and introduced. The logo provides a focal point for Center marketing and promotion strategies and is used to promote Regent university educational opportunities and service to residents of southwest Iowa.

Goal 2. Assist Regent universities with the development of undergraduate completion degrees in cooperation with community colleges in western Iowa.

- ✓ The UNI Certificate in Technology Management was launched in cooperation with Iowa Western Community College.
- ✓ The Regent universities' Bachelor of Liberal Studies was promoted through periodic staffed displays at Iowa Western Community College in Council Bluffs and at Western Iowa Tech in Sioux City. These efforts reached a group of traditional and non-traditional students, as well as staff members, at these institutions with information about the BLS. They also provided visibility to Regent university distance education opportunities.
- ✓ A full-page feature story in the Council Bluffs *Nonpareil* featured one of the BLS students, other undergraduate off-campus programs, and Center services to area residents.
- ✓ The Center provided logistical support for on-site courses, ICN courses, and telecourses, including arrangements for computer labs, library checkout privileges at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, test administration, and resource materials check-out.
- ✓ The Center initiated a special promotion of Iowa State University military science courses to Iowa Western Community College students.

Goal 3. Increase non-credit programs for area professionals seeking opportunities to upgrade knowledge and skills.

- ✓ The Center cooperated with chambers of commerce and area economic development organizations for course and program promotions.
- ✓ Area employers were contacted for needs assessment purposes and input for future programs.
- ✓ Regent universities' continuing education units are kept informed of needs of area businesses through the Center programming team.
- ✓ Two Graduate Record Exam (GRE) preparation sessions were conducted for area professionals considering graduate school. This service provides an opportunity to share information about graduate opportunities available both on and off campus at the Regent universities. GRE preparation tools are available in the Center computer resource area for use by Center clientele.

Goal 4. Expand graduate program offerings in a wide range of curricular areas.

- ✓ Significant progress was made on this goal with a net increase of nine new graduate programs or program cycles. Area residents have access to an increasing array of program options, most of which have been made possible through the use of the Iowa Communications Network.
- ✓ One additional undergraduate offering, UNI's Certificate in Technology Management, was initiated.

Goal 5. Increase access to cultural arts programming from the Regent universities.

- ✓ The Center co-sponsored a performance of the University of Iowa's *Dancers in Company* with Council Bluffs Community Schools at Thomas Jefferson High School.
- ✓ The Center initiated and hosted a meeting between the University of Northern Iowa and Iowa Western Community College Fine Arts faculty to explore opportunities to exchange fine arts programming. UNI's Dean and department heads attended the meeting at Iowa Western Community College and participated in a tour of the Southwest Iowa Arts Center which is currently under construction.
- ✓ Opportunities to link southwest Iowa with campus resources in the cultural arts are continually sought.

During 1999-2000, the Center developed and implemented a number of activities which supported its goals.

- ✓ *Informational Meetings.* The Center promoted new program opportunities and assisted with informational meetings for the following programs from the University of Northern Iowa - Master of Music Education, MAE in Early Childhood Education, Gerontology Certificate Program, MAE in Middle Level Education, Elementary Reading Endorsement, Master of Arts in Public Relations, and Master of Public Policy. The Center promoted information sessions for the following programs from the University of Iowa - Master of Science in Science Education and Master of Arts in Library Science.
- ✓ *GRE Preparation and Strategies.* The Center was a co-sponsor of two sessions on preparation for the Graduate Record Exam, which was conducted from Iowa State University on the ICN to Council Bluffs and other sites statewide. There were 25 participants at the two sessions in Council Bluffs.

- ✓ *Elementary Reading and Language Arts.* There were two cohorts in the Elementary Reading and Language Arts Master's program. The Center provided support for this on-site program by scheduling classroom facilities and computer labs, arranging library check-out privileges at the University of Nebraska - Omaha, providing storage and check-out of course materials, copying, and faxing. The first cohort, which had 35 students, completed the program during 1999-2000. This is the primary reason for a decrease in enrollment during the current academic year.
- ✓ *Iowa Communications Network.* Enrollments on the ICN increased for the third year, outnumbering traditional face-to-face enrollments for the first time. The Center provided on-site support at the Iowa School for the Deaf for delivery of ICN courses and events. The Center managed the two ICN classrooms and facilitated ICN scheduling for ISD for sign language classes. The Center Director serves on two Regional Telecommunications Councils (RTC) which assist with the educational use of the ICN in Areas 13 and 14.
- ✓ *Cultural Outreach.* The Center's broad role includes support for cultural outreach from the Regent universities. The Center regularly supports efforts of area arts organizations by providing information on university cultural arts outreach opportunities. Through these activities, the Center provides visibility for Regent universities' cultural outreach to the residents of southwestern Iowa.
- ✓ *Joint Meeting with Tri-State Graduate Center and Quad Cities Graduate Study Center.* The Center provided opportunities to discuss items of mutual interest, particularly in the area of course/program promotion. The Center has benefited from coordination of course schedule preparation timelines. Exchanging ideas for web page development, data base management, and dealing with increased printing and postage costs was beneficial.

The Center formulated the following goals for 2000-2001:

1. Continue implementation of the Center marketing plan for the purpose of increasing enrollments and awareness of Regent university educational opportunities available in the region.
2. Assist Regent universities with outreach and continuing education initiatives consistent with their strategic plans.
3. Expand graduate program offerings in a wide range of curricular areas.
4. Expand opportunities for cultural arts programming, including non-credit educational programs such as workshops and conferences.

The Southwest Iowa Regents Resource Center had a budget of \$144,348 for FY 2000. The state appropriation for the Center was \$114,324 (79.2%). The State Extension and Continuing Education Council provided \$30,024 (20.8%) in support. Additional information about the Center is included in the Regent Exhibit Book.

Special Problems or Concerns

- ✱ The GradCenter continues to have concerns in two key areas: achieving student diversity and ensuring student accessibility to graduate education opportunities.
 - ✓ The GradCenter student body does not represent the racial or ethnic diversity of the Quad Cities community. Efforts must be made to attract racial and ethnic minority students to graduate study. The GradCenter will work with member institutions and members of the Quad Cities community to address this concern.
 - ✓ Through a united effort of the Governing Board, the number of degree programs expanded during 1999-2000 which increased the accessibility of Quad Cities-area graduate opportunities. Yet there is more to do to ensure that barriers to education, including financial barriers and conflicts with work and family schedules, are diminished.
- ✱ The Tri-State Graduate Center is a developing consortium of universities and colleges in Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota with a mission to facilitate delivery of graduate degree programs and graduate-level learning opportunities to Siouxland residents.
 - ✓ Challenges remain to achieve the promise of making graduate education available for place-bound individuals in the tri-state Siouxland area.
 - ✓ A significant issue for the Center is that cooperative degree programs jointly presented by member academic institutions would extend graduate education opportunities in Siouxland and reduce unnecessary duplication of degree programs offered. The Center would also like to have enrollment in graduate-level courses and degree programs generated in cooperation with AEA 4 and Western Hills Area Education Agency included with the Center's headcount enrollment.

- * The Resource Center has identified a potential problem related to the quality of ICN transmissions between Area 13 sites and other areas in the state as a result of the switch to upgraded technology for Area 13. Until the entire state gets switched over to the new technology (asynchronous transfer mode), the Center's system will have trouble communicating to sites outside the area with the older technology. There will be a delay in the video which is significantly distracting. Although the Center has been assured that the problems are being corrected, there is a concern that dissatisfaction with ICN transmission quality would be detrimental to the programs.


Diana Gonzalez

Approved: 
Frank J. Stork